



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

December 26, 2001

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend that the Board of Supervisors (Board) extend the sunset date for the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) until December 31, 2002. The Audit Committee should also recommend that the Board instruct the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to work with the Commission to clearly define the Commission's role, and establish specific goals and activities to justify extending the Commission's sunset date beyond December 31, 2002.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) was established by Board order under Chapter 3.46 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Commission's mission is to advise and provide support to the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in the acquisition, improvement, and governance of County parks, recreational areas and facilities, recreation programs and other related recreation matters.

The Commission consists of five members, one nominated by each Supervisor. Meetings are required to be held monthly and members serve without compensation. During the last three years, the Commission held 25 (69%) of 36 required meetings. Average attendance has been three members per meeting.

JUSTIFICATION

Based on our review of meeting minutes, and discussions with DPR management, the Commission has not provided the County with any significant benefits during the last three years. At each meeting, the Commission presents an award to the Department's "employee of the month" and receives oral status reports on the Department's activities and financial status. The Commission provides very little input at these meetings.

During the three-year evaluation period, neither the Board of Supervisors nor DPR asked the Commission for any advice or requested any special projects.

The Commission indicated that, during the last three years, individual members of the Commission had arranged for a \$250,000 donation to create an overnight camp for inner-city youths, enabled DPR to participate in the Cerritos Family Arts Festival and arranged for the City of San Fernando to donate a skating rink, which was installed at Mayberry Park. While laudable, these accomplishments were achieved by individual members of the Commission, and not by the Commission as a body.

We discussed the Commission's lack of accomplishments with DPR management who indicated that they had also discussed this issue with the Commission at its December 2001 meeting. At that meeting, DPR and the Commission agreed that the Commission has provided minimal benefit to the County and that the Commission's role and goals need to be better defined. DPR and the Commission indicated that they intend to work to define the role of the Commission and to identify specific goals and activities the Commission can undertake to assist the Department in its mission.

Based on DPR's and the Commission's plan to develop a clearly defined role and specific goals/activities for the Commission, we recommend that the sunset date for the Commission be extended to December 31, 2002. At that time, we will reassess the Commission's role and accomplishments and will recommend to the Audit Committee whether the Commission should be granted a new sunset date.

Please call me if you have any questions, or contact DeWitt Roberts at (213) 974-0301.

JTM:DR:JS
Attachments

c: Michael H. Smith, Interim Director, DPR
George Ray, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
Khahn Nguyen, Manager, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
PARKS AND RECREATION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission; to advise the Board of Supervisors and the director of Parks and Recreation on the acquisition, improvements, and governance of County parks, recreational areas and facilities, recreation programs, and other related recreation matters. **CONCUR**

Section 1. Relevancy. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

While the mission is still relevant, the Commission does not advise the Board or the Department of Parks and Recreation regarding the management of the County's parks and programs. **NOT RELEVANT**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission is required to meet at least monthly. It held 25 (69%) out of the required 36 meetings during the last three years. While the Commission held most of the scheduled meetings, average attendance has been three (60%) of five members per meeting. **UNSATISFACTORY**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

The Commission's self-evaluation identified only three accomplishments during the last three years. None of these were related to advising the Board or the Department of Parks and Recreation on the management of the County's parks and programs. **NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The stated objective of "assessing its focus and mission to establish a dynamic for the Commission's future viable contribution" is compatible with the mission and goals of the Commission. However, based on the accomplishments reported by the Commission, the Commission is **NOT RELEVANT**

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Since there are no material accomplishments and results, the use of approximately \$8,000 in resources a year is **NOT WARRANTED**

Section 7. Recommendation:

The Audit Committee recommend that the Board of Supervisors (Board) extend the sunset date for the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) until December 31, 2002. The Audit Committee should also recommend that the Board instruct the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to work with the Commission to clearly define the Commission's role, and establish specific goals and activities to justify extending the Commission's sunset date beyond December 31, 2002.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ATTENDANCE RECORD

Commissioner	Nominated By	12/31/1998	3/31/1999	6/30/1999	9/30/1999	12/31/1999	3/31/2000	6/30/2000	9/30/2000	12/31/2000	3/31/2001	6/30/2001	9/30/2001	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter ---->		2	3	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	1	25	
Sal Castro	Molina	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	68%
Kevin Ross	Burke	0	1											1	20%
Reve Gipson	Burke						2	1	1	2	1	1	0	8	62%
Raymond Ojeda	Yaroslavsky	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	20	40%
George Ray	Dana	2	3	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	1	22	88%
William Korek	Antonovich	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8%
Totals		4	9	6	5	8	9	4	6	6	5	6	2	70	
Average Attendance per Meeting ---->														2.8	